

CONGRESSMAN BOUCHER ANNOUNCES LOCAL CHANNELS IN PATRICK COUNTY FOR DIRECTV CUSTOMERS

(Washington, D.C.) - U.S. Representative Rick Boucher announced today that, at his urging, satellite television provider DIRECTV is now providing 'local into local' service, through which local broadcast stations are uplinked to the satellite and then retransmitted to satellite television customers in Patrick County. The service began today.

"Currently, Patrick County residents who own satellite dishes receive local broadcast transmissions from Greensboro, North Carolina even though the broadcast stations in Roanoke provide more localized newscasts for Patrick County. Earlier I submitted legislation which was approved by the Congress to enable Patrick residents to receive local television broadcasts from Virginia," Boucher said.**"** Now the service has been launched.

Many DIRECTV subscribers will be able to view the new Roanoke stations immediately. Some customers who utilize older equipment may need to contact DIRECTV to secure updated equipment in order to receive the local signals. In order to accommodate customers using older satellite dishes and converter boxes, DIRECTV will provide and install replacement equipment suitable for viewing the new signals at no cost.

Susan Eid, Vice President of Government Relations for DIRECTV, added, **"DIRECTV is thrilled to offer, for the first time, local Virginia broadcast stations to all the residents of Patrick County. Without Representative Boucher's leadership and persistence, DIRECTV would not be able to provide this public service."**

Congressman Boucher secured passage of legislation to enable satellite television subscribers in Patrick County to receive Roanoke broadcast station service via satellite. Under the legislation, satellite television providers may broadcast stations in Patrick County which are deemed to be "significantly viewed," as determined by existing FCC regulations.

The NBC (WSLS, Channel 10) and CBS (WDBJ, Channel 7) stations from Roanoke meet this requirement in Patrick County. As a result, satellite television customers in Patrick County may now receive Roanoke NBC and CBS broadcasts.

"Local Virginia-based broadcasts will be tremendously beneficial to the satellite customers of Patrick County who will receive them. I am pleased that DIRECTV customers in Patrick County now have the capability to receive broadcasts from both the NBC and CBS stations in Roanoke, and I will continue to encourage EchoStar, the corporation which owns DISH Network, to provide the same service to their customers in the near future" Boucher concluded.